

# Air Quality & Environmental Planning Branch

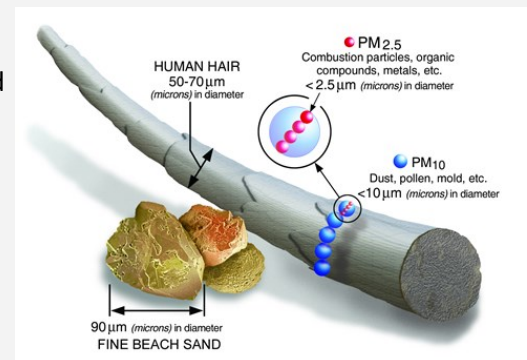
## Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Regional Planning

### Air Quality

Air Quality and Environmental Planning Branch supports the Department's air quality analysis and transportation conformity policy to ensure that environmental consideration is taken for regional and project-level air quality issues, which are mandated by the federal Clean Air Act of 1970, Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). AQEPB is also committed to helping Caltrans meet its Strategic Management Plan Goals of Safety and Health, and Sustainability, Livability and Economy, by promoting health through reduced pollution in communities.

#### **Program Activities:**

- Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement Quality Assurance Review
- Technical Assistance for Interagency Consultation (IAC) process and air quality conformity
- NEPA Assignment compliance
- Training events and materials
- Evaluate and report on regulatory changes set by U.S. EPA and ARB
- Fact sheets and white papers on statutes, requirements, regulations
- Regional emissions analysis for isolated rural areas
- Statewide Conformity Working Group Meetings
- Near-Road Air Quality Pooled Fund research products



Source: U. S. EPA



Source: FHWA

#### **Contact Information:**

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#### **Key Partners:**

- Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA)
- District Offices
- Division of Programming
- U.S. EPA
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Air Resources Board (ARB)
- Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
- Local Agencies
- California EPA
- Division of Research, Innovation and System Information (DRISI)
- Other State Departments of Transportation

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## Planning and Environment Linkages

Air Quality and Environmental Planning Branch is working to strengthen communication and partnership between Caltrans' Divisions of Transportation Planning and Environmental Analysis. Current departmental processes inhibit this partnership, with the result that environmental considerations may be identified late in the project delivery process, increasing project costs and schedules. AQEPB's actions to change that are supported by Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan Sustainability, Livability, and Economy Goal, which states the Department will support natural systems. In accordance with the Goal, environmental considerations should be outlined early in Planning and carried through project development to create a streamlined project approval process and improved conservation outcomes.

### **Program Activities:**

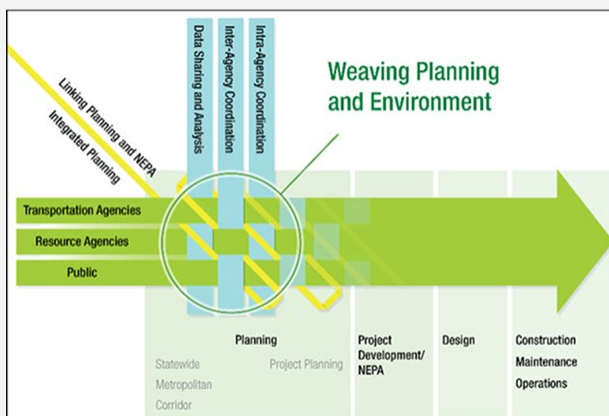
- **Training**
  - Forums, brown bags, Planning Horizons
  - For Planning staff and other functional units
  - Planned and implemented in coordination with DEA
- **Technical assistance**
  - Providing input to System Planning, as Transportation Concept Reports are redefined
  - Contribute to interagency Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) Working Group
- **Research**
  - Preliminary Investigation, with DEA and Traffic Operations, on animal-vehicle collisions.
  - Secure Caltrans' participation in Pooled Fund study on wildlife connectivity led by Nevada DOT



Source: Suzanne Melim, Caltrans D3

### **Key Partners:**

- Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA)
- Western Transportation Institute (WTI), Montana State University
- Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP) Working Group
- California Transportation Commission (CTC)



Source: FHWA

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## Health and Transportation

Transportation's role as one of the social determinants of health is receiving increasing attention from transportation agencies, health advocates, and local communities. AQEPB's activities support and promote Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan Goal of Safety and Health to provide a safe transportation system for workers and users and promote health through active transportation. As an active member of the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force, AQEPB also continues to fulfill Executive Order S-04-10 to identify priority programs, policies and strategies to improve the health of Californians.



Source: American Public Health Association

### **Program Activities**

- **Propose and implement health-promoting actions**
  - With partners from the HiAP Task Force, implement HiAP Active Transportation Action Plan policies
- **Collaboration and technical assistance**
  - Provide input on the content of planning documents such as the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines and the General Plan Guidelines
  - Provide input on the content of health-related documents from the HiAP Task Force
- **Research**
  - NCHRP research proposals related to health and transportation
  - Review and Analysis of tools and trends for health in transportation



Source: FHWA/FTA

### **Key Partners:**

- Division of Traffic Operations
- Division of Local Assistance
- California Department of Public Health
- Health in All Policies Task Force
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Office of Planning and Research
- Strategic Growth Council
- Federal Highway Administration
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Other State Departments of Transportation
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program

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